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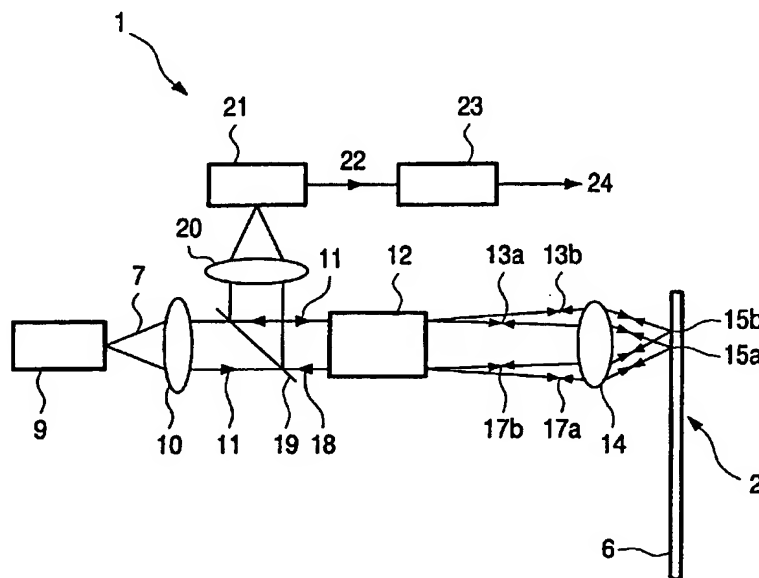
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— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH,

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(54) Title: OPTICAL SCANNING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device 1 detects an information signal from an optical record carrier 2 using differential interference contrast. Two radiation beams 13a, 13b are generated and focused to two distinct spots 15a, 15b respectively displaced along a data track on the information layer of an optical record carrier. The relative positions of the spots in lands and pits can generate a path length difference between the reflected beams 17a, 17b. This path length difference causes the beams to interfere either constructively or destructively, depending on the relative land/pit position in the data track of the spots. This interference causes a detectable signal to be generated, the signal being representative of a transition from a pit to a land on the information layer 4 or vice versa.



CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 794 585 A (LEE WAI-HON) 27 December 1988 (1988-12-27) column 6, line 56 - column 13, line 25; figures	1-11
A	US 5 406 542 A (MORIMOTO YASUAKI) 11 April 1995 (1995-04-11) column 3, line 31 - column 5, line 44; figures	1,2,6
A	EP 0 837 455 A (THOMSON BRANDT GMBH) 22 April 1998 (1998-04-22) page 3, column 4, line 41 - page 6, column 9, line 32; figures	1,7
A	US 3 931 459 A (KORPEL ADRIANUS) 6 January 1976 (1976-01-06) column 2, line 35 - column G11B7	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "A" document member of the same patent family		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer  Geoghegan, C

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